

Campus Media as an Agent of Change: A Timeline of McGill University's Sexual Violence Policy Through **THE McGill Daily**

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Content warning: sexual violence

Introduction

This project's aim is to examine the effects of student-led activism on the development of McGill's Sexual Violence Policy (SVP).

Its secondary aim is to show the roles that campus newspapers, as a form of alternative, community-run media, can have in activism using the mobilizing surrounding McGill University's SVP as a case study.

Methods

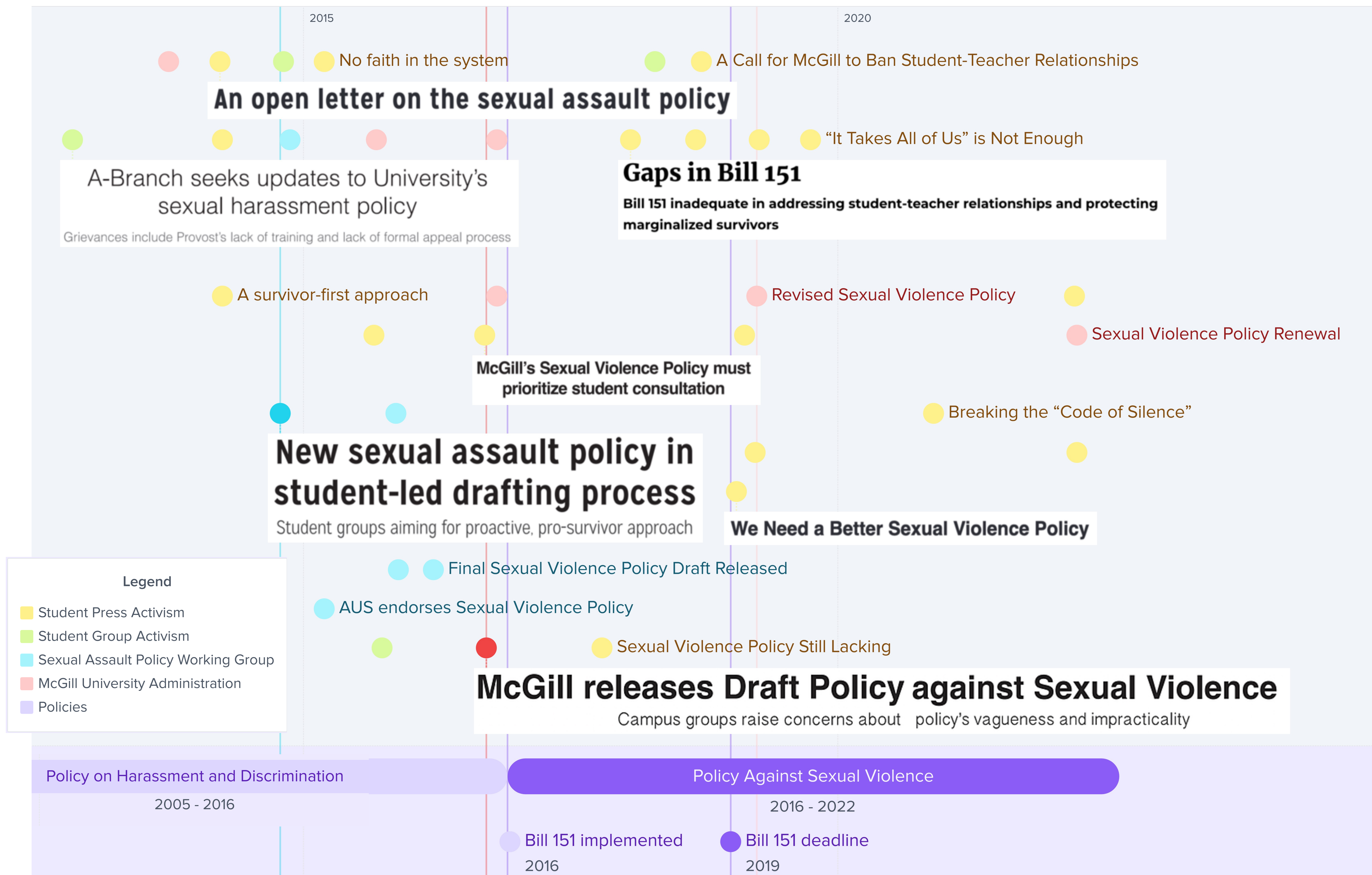
Drawing from the ongoing archiving work for the Feminist Student News and Protest (SNAP) Archive, I compiled a non-exhaustive set of articles published in the McGill Daily between 2012 and 2022 on the topic of McGill's SVP and arranged them along a timeline to reveal how press coverage might influence or be influenced by external events. Each dot represents one article and is colour-coded by coverage of different agents in the social change process.

Discussion

The timeline shows an influx of articles written leading up to and immediately following pivotal times such as the Bill 151 deadline, the implementation and dissolution of the SAPWG, and the implementation or review of policies. The timeline also reveals possible causal relationships between ideas circulating or actions taken and concrete policy changes.

The McGill Daily performed multiple roles in their coverage of McGill's SVP:

- A site for enacting its own activism through sharing opinions and knowledge
- A mouthpiece for other student groups' actions and opinions
- A site for tracking and publicizing important events and discussions



Conclusion and Looking Forward

This project showcases, throughout time, the various agents in the mobilizing process and illuminates the many roles student press play in activism on campus. There are many more events that should be added to this timeline to show a clearer picture of the development of the SVP, such as incidents of sexual violence on and around campus or non-policy-related activism around sexual violence. This research is still ongoing and a central goal of the Feminist SNAP Archive is to continue working on similar timelines to track more agents and factors in the development of the SVP to preserve institutional knowledge and acknowledge the student activism that took and is still taking place.



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